

Severe illness and death can be effectively reduced

Book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment for your booster dose

Please scan QR code or visit website



<https://eservice.ssm.gov.mo/covidvacbook>

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre



ARTYZEN GRAND LAPA MACAU 澳門雅辰酒店

DISCOVER Good Life Starts Here



GAMING ROAR: THE CITY'S CASINOS ARE SEEING DAILY AVERAGE REVENUES DOUBLE WHEN COMPARED TO THE FIRST NINE DAYS OF SEPTEMBER

P3

RON CALLS FOR BALANCE BETWEEN NATIONAL SECURITY, 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS'

P4

THE CONVERSATION: THE 5,000-YEAR HISTORY OF WRITER'S BLOCK

P8

AP PHOTO



North Korea's recent barrage of missile launches were the simulated use of its tactical battlefield nuclear weapons to "hit and wipe out" potential South Korean and U.S. targets, state media reported Monday, as its leader Kim Jong Un signaled he would conduct more provocative tests. The North's statement, released on the 77th birthday of its ruling Workers' Party, is seen as an attempt to burnish Kim's image as a strong leader at home amid pandemic-related hardships as he's defiantly pushing to enlarge his weapons arsenal to wrest greater concessions from its rivals in future negotiations.

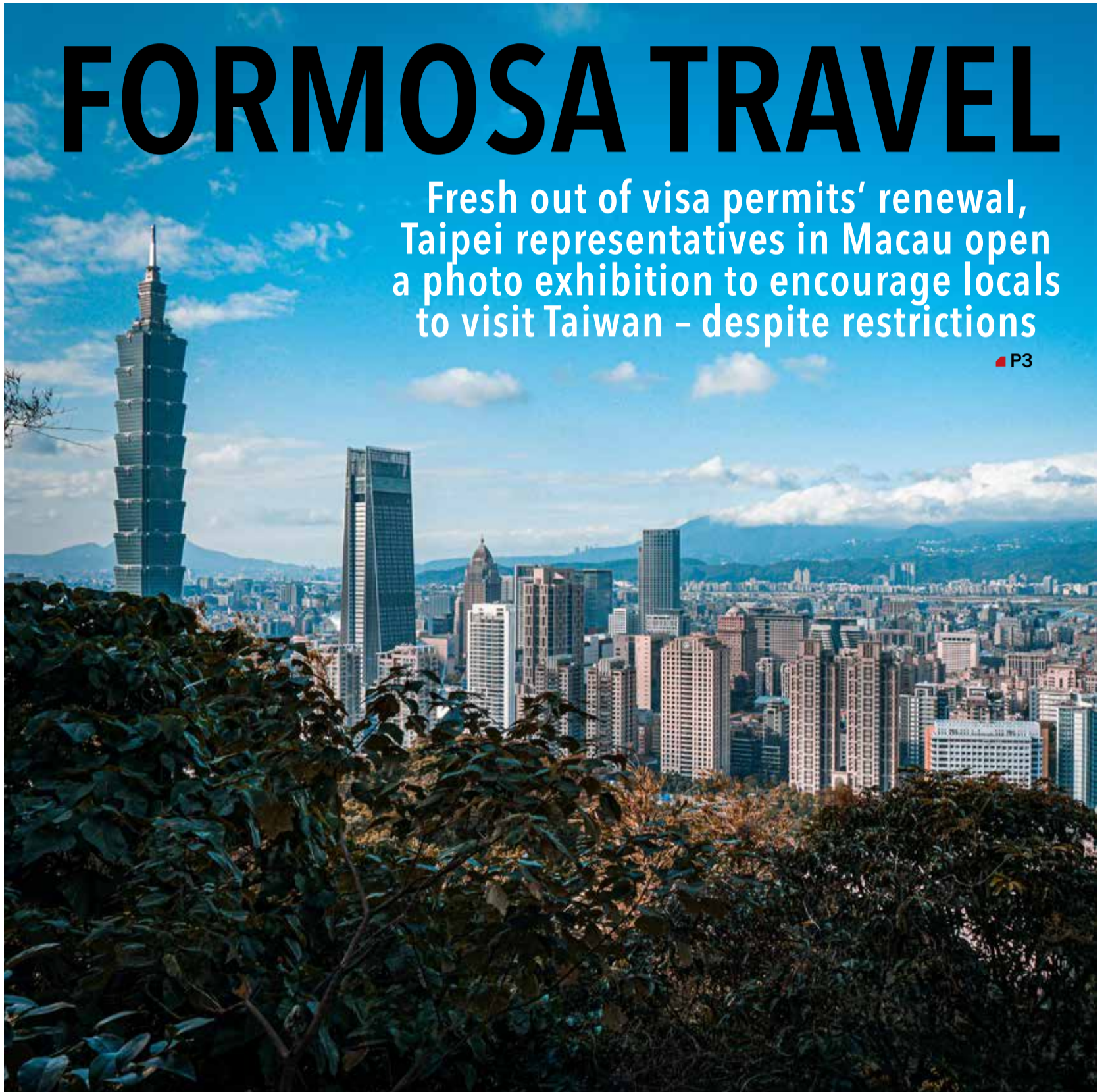
AP PHOTO



Philippines Human rights activists pressed their call yesterday for the immediate release of a former Philippine opposition senator after she was taken hostage in a rampage by three Muslim militants in a failed attempt to escape from a maximum-security jail. Police killed three Islamic State group-linked militants behind Sunday's violence in which a police officer was stabbed and former Sen. Leila de Lima briefly taken hostage. The militants tried to escape from the jail for high-profile inmates at the national police headquarters in metropolitan Manila, police said.

Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob announced that Parliament will be dissolved today, paving the way for general elections that are expected to be held in early November. The elections come nine months before Parliament's term expires, following calls for early polls from Ismail's United Malays National Organization. UMNO, the biggest party in the ruling coalition, was feuding with its allies and is aiming for a big win on its own.

More on backpage



FORMOSA TRAVEL

Fresh out of visa permits' renewal, Taipei representatives in Macau open a photo exhibition to encourage locals to visit Taiwan - despite restrictions

P3

CRIME EYES IN THE SKY CAUGHT 'FINDERS KEEPERS'



P2

COVID-19 BORDER RESTRICTIONS FOR CROSS-BORDER TRAVELERS IMPOSED UNTIL OCT. 31

P4

TWO-TIME CAEAL PRESIDENT APPOINTED CHIEF OF MIDDLE COURT

TONG Hio Fong, two-time president of the parliamentary electoral affairs committee, was yesterday appointed chief of the Court of Second Instance (TSI) for three years.

His appointment can be extended.

The news was announced by the government in an Official Gazette entry.

The current president of the court, Justice Lai Kin Hong, has filed for voluntary retirement, which has been approved. Lai has occupied the position since 1999. His appointment had been renewed in 2020 and set to end in 2023.

Tong was the president of the electoral affairs committee for the parliamentary election last year. In

the election, 20 candidates from the non-establishment camp were disqualified from the election. Tong ruled there was evidence the 20 candidates were unpatriotic and critical of the leadership of the Communist Party of China. He last presided over an electoral affairs committee in 2017.

Tong started his career as a judge at the Court of First Instance (TJB), where he served from 1999 to 2013. In 2010, he was appointed the president of the TJB and the Administrative Court, an organic court of the TJB.

In 2013, Tong was promoted to the TSI as a regular judge. His position at the TJB was taken by Ip Son Sang, incumbent president of the Public Prosecutions Office. AL

RENATO MARQUES



SUNCITY TRIAL

Three witnesses give varied testimonies on marketing parallel betting

TESTIMONIES from three Suncity workers yesterday varied on whether the company had proactively promoted parallel betting.

It was presented to the court that marketing officers at the company would promote parallel betting to gamblers, which when accepted would trigger certain preparatory procedures.

When questioned at yesterday's court hearing, a worker-witness surnamed Ho admitted that a successful pitch of parallel betting would result in him receiving a bonus commission. Nonetheless, he said he had never received such commissions.

Another witness, surnamed Lei, said that his main job was to book cars and rooms for customers. He

also admitted that "simple" training on parallel betting was provided at the beginning of his employment. He also admitted that his superintendent had mentioned suspect No 5, Cheong Chi Kin, was the head of operations for parallel betting.

However, both denied that they had had any role in promoting parallel betting.

The third witness, surnamed Ng, who worked at a division different from the aforementioned two witnesses, denied proactively promoting parallel betting. In fact, Ng was told about parallel betting so he would know if customers were engaging in the practice.

Ng added that training was offered to obtain intelligence for better servicing customers. AL

CRIME

PSP DETAINS WOMAN FOR APPROPRIATING LOST WALLET

RENATO MARQUES

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) has detained a woman from the mainland holding a permit to visit family members in Macau, for the appropriation of a wallet left at a hotel in Cotai by a tourist, a police force spokesperson revealed yesterday, during the regular joint press conference of the local police forces.

According to the report from the 24-year-old victim made on the afternoon of October 3, she dropped the wallet somewhere at the hotel containing HKD22,000 in cash, as well as a casino cash voucher worth another HKD700.

Making use of the surveillance footage from the hotel as well as the public street surveillance system (Eyes in the Sky), the police managed to identify and trace the suspect, a 56-year-old woman, to an apartment located in the Northern district.

On October 3 around 10 p.m. police officers arrived at the apartment where the suspect's family members live, and were able to find both the suspect

RENATO MARQUES



and the wallet still containing all the valuables.

The woman admitted to the crime, saying that she had picked up the lost wallet and brought it with her. She allegedly said she had kept it out of greed.

In a separate report from the same police force, a 48-year-old woman working in Macau as a domestic worker was also caught by the police for having picked up a 500-patacas banknote from the street. The case da-

tes back to July this year when a local 68-year-old woman reported the loss of this money.

Also using the Eyes in the Sky surveillance system, the PSP managed to identify and trace the suspect, and brought her to the police station for questioning in late September.

Both suspects have already been sent to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation and accusation of the crime of illegal appropriation of found items.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+23,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí DESIGNER_Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER_Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement_advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Photo exhibition encourages Taiwan tourism

ANTHONY LAM

A photo exhibition was opened yesterday at the Dr Sun Yat Sen Memorial House in the attempt to encourage tourism to Taiwan.

The exhibition has been organized by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Macau and will be on show from now until the end of the month.

A collection of photos capturing both the geographic, gastronomic and human scenery of Taiwan are posted on the top floor of the memorial house, which was built with Islamic Moorish influences.

Through the exhibition, the office hopes to recall the memories of people from Macau of their travels in Taiwan, as well as reinvigorating their desire to return to the island. The pictures were collected with the help of the tourism authorities in Taiwan, the Office added.

Geographically and topically curated, the exhibition showcases elements from Taiwan's six major scenic areas, namely the North Coast, the Dune Art Field, the Sun Moon Lake, the Alishan Mountain, the East Coast and the Gold

Coast, in addition to four topics of ecology, culture, gastronomy and lifestyle.

Upon entering the memorial house, viewers will immediately see images depicting the exterior and cabin of an aircraft. They are provided by the two Taiwanese airlines serving Macau-Taiwan routes.

Separately showcased in three parlors, the photos are thoughtfully arranged to resemble certain settings, as the host explained. For instance, the "food" section of the exhibition is arranged as if viewers are taking a train ride in Taiwan, since photos are presented irregularly, mimicking the shakes made by a train's movement.

The food section greets viewers with images of famous Taiwan delicacies, such as bubble tea and braised pork rice, as well as many other food items.

Furthermore, viewers will also be able to have a glimpse of the lifestyle of Taiwan, if they have not been to the island. A few images featuring Taiwanese indigenous peoples are also on display.

NO RECIPROCITY

Taiwan will finally open its borders to foreign arrivals, but has different border policies for peo-



ple from mainland China, Macau and Hong Kong due to the "lack of reciprocity," according to a report by Taipei Times yesterday.

The Taiwan government will end mandatory quarantine for incoming travelers on Thursday "except those from Hong Kong, Macau and China."

The government last month announced that starting on Sept.

29, people from China and the two territories who wished to visit Taiwan "could apply on the grounds of humanitarian, family or business needs, and that their applications would be considered in light of regulations."

According to Taipei Times, the policy would be "subject to rolling reviews according to Covid-19 pandemic conditions, the

state of cross-strait ties and other factors," officials said at the time.

However, on Sept. 28, China's Taiwan Affairs Office questioned the policy and called for the "small three links" — commercial, transportation and postal exchanges between Kinmen and Lienchiang counties, and China's coastal cities — to be restarted, the report says.

TRAVEL

STARLUX PLANS TO EXPAND MACAU-TAIPEI ROUTE FREQUENCY

ANTHONY LAM

SEEING the gradual return of global travel, an executive at a Taiwanese airline company yesterday revealed plans to add more flights to serve passengers between Macau and Taipei.

Steven Feng, general manager at the Macau branch of Starlux Airlines, made the announcement on the sidelines of a media event.

The company has been operating one flight per day between Macau and Taipei, Feng recapped. "Considering possible relaxation to immigration restrictions in the future, particularly the announced cancellation of centralized quarantine in Taiwan in mid-October, we are planning to add an extra flight per day to the Macau-Taipei route starting early next year," he added.

The executive added that many Taiwanese businesspeople in Guangdong would choose to fly back to Taiwan through Macau. They enter Macau by land before taking a flight back home.

The airline started its Macau-Taipei route with three flights per day on January 23, 2020. He



Steven Feng

hoped that the same or even a higher frequency of flights will return as international travel gradually resumes, as well as when, in the future, Macau passport holders can enter Taiwan without prior applications.

Feng revealed that, for the time being, the airline company is focusing on expanding across Asia. "In the short term, Asian routes will be the core of our development," he remarked. "The next phase will be expanding to North America."

He disclosed that the company's preliminary plan is to commence flights to Los Angeles

in April next year, with the delivery of A330neo and A350 aircraft. With this type of widebody aircraft, the company will enjoy greater flexibility in arranging its capacity.

"In fact, these larger planes will be deployed on the Macau-Taipei route when travel resumes," Feng added. "People in Macau may enjoy the convenience of flying to Northeast Asian and North American destinations on Starlux flights through Taipei."

He hinted that prices will likely be preferable to those offered by Air Macau.

GAMING

GOLDEN WEEK CASINO REVENUES AT MOP1.7B

LYNZY VALLES

THE city's casinos are seeing daily average revenues double when compared to the first nine days of September.

A note issued by JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) Ltd stated that aggregate casino gross gaming revenue (GGR) for the first nine days of the month was MOP1.7 billion, which is approximately MOP190 million a day.

However, this figure was only about 15% to 20% of pre-Covid levels on Golden Week, when daily GGR had achieved the MOP1 billion mark.

"By segment, we estimate mass GGR has recovered to 30% to 35% of pre-Covid Golden Week levels, versus VIP at a mid-single-digit recovery," wrote the JP Morgan analyst, as cited in a report issued by GGRAsia.

The October 1 to 7 National Day Holiday recorded some 182,284 visitor arrivals, exceeding the expectation of the local government.

The average entries were the highest since the city faced the largest outbreak in mid-June this year, which led to the halt in travel.

Both the tourism and the gaming sector are now eyeing the resumption of group package tours and e-visas for mainland travelers.

The issuance of group package tours to Macau and eVisas under the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) is shaping up to be a massive boost for the SAR's gaming and tourism operators, which have been negatively affected since the pandemic began in early 2020.

With this move, J.P. Morgan expects that the pent-up demand for mass-market gaming remains "pretty solid" and would be better than their former forecast.

This time, the brokerage is betting that the mass-market gaming revenue will rise to 40% to 50% of pre-pandemic times in December.

However, the city will continue to face headwinds amid the current turmoil in the gaming sector, as mainland China and Macau continue to adhere to their zero-Covid policies. This means that a small number of cases may lead to lockdowns and travel restrictions.

Currently, some districts in Zhuhai are under lockdown due to new cases over the weekend.



ALEXANDRE LEITÃO TO
HEAD HK/MACAU PORTUGUESE CONSULATE

The Portuguese government has appointed Alexandre Leitão as the new consul general of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong, replacing Paulo Cunha Alves who has occupied the post since October 2018. Leitão started his diplomatic career in 1999. He was consul general of Portugal in Benguela (September 2008 to September 2012), and was posted at the Portuguese Embassy in Senegal (from July 2002 to August 2005), according to media reports. For the last three years he has been vice-president of the organizing committee of the United Nations Ocean Conference, which took place in Lisbon from June 27 to July 1 this year. He is currently the special envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Climate Affairs. He is fluent in English, Spanish and French.

Ron Lam calls for balance between national security, 'One country, two systems'

ANTHONY LAM

THE national security law review should be conducted in such a way that "One country, two systems" will be well conserved, the Association of Synergy of Macao has stated.

Lawmaker Ron Lam is the group's executive director.

October 5 saw the cessation of the public consultation period of the law review.

The group noted no prosecutions had been made under the current National Security Law, which is 13 years old. It considered this proof of the law's effectiveness at safeguarding national security and social order. "Patriotism and the sense of belongingness to China have remained a piece of mainstream opinion in Macau," the group concluded.

Nonetheless, the group has an opinion about the manner in which the public consultation texts were compiled.

Similar to its approach for the gaming law review, the government did not propose any specific provisions for the public to discuss. On the contrary, an overall direction as well as specific directions for several aspects were provided.

In its opinion, Lam's group highlighted the aforementioned fact,



emphasizing the consultation texts did not include any specific provisions. In addition, the group added, during public explanatory sessions, participating government officials did not clarify the definitions of certain terminology, such as instigation, incitement and subversion, which it fears will lead to "unnecessary speculation and worry."

During the consultation period, officials further noted that, in the future, should a person like or repost social media posts suspected of breaching national security law,

that person may be considered to have violated the new law through either instigation or incitement.

The group thus asked the government whether the public will be at risk of rash prosecutions for criticizing the government or its policies, or merely liking social media posts that do not truly constitute national security violations.

Reiterating its belief that most people in Macau are patriotic and their criticism on governance is based on the love of the land, the group suggested the government

fulfil promises made during the consultation period. Such promises included upholding of the various freedoms and rights of the people in Macau, particularly those concerning speech, the press, assembly, protest, as well as supervision and criticism over the administration's governance.

A line should also be clearly drawn between criticisms and incitement, so as to ensure members of the public will not easily fall foul of the law inadvertently, said the group.

Gov't launches public consultation on detailed plan for Zone A

RENATO MARQUES

THE Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) has launched a public consultation on a draft detailed plan for the development of Zone A of the new landfills, which according to the Urban Master Plan, has been named Operative Unit of Planning and Management East-2.

Although there is a lot of construction already ongoing in the area, the final plan for the development of the 76 land plots that comprise a total area of 1.74 square kilometers, has not been finalized and approved.

In the draft plan published by the DSSCU, it is now clear

that the government intends to keep the largest slice of the area (40.7%) for public open-air spaces and green areas, followed by housing usage (24.8%) and land purposed for educational and social equipment usage (12.7%).

An important slice of the area (17.6%) is also reserved for streets and roads, while commercial usage (which includes all restaurants, supermarkets and other retail stores) accounts for only 0.9%.

The government plan proposes the phased construction of a total of 32,000 housing units from which the large majority (28,000) are public housing units.

The same plan expects

that by 2040 there will be around 96,000 people residing in this new area of the city.

The public consultation period started October 7 and will run until December 5, a period of 60 days.

Members of the public can submit their opinions via the common channels, namely online at a dedicated website (www.dsscu.gov.mo/pt/sites/uopge2), by email, by post or in person at the DSSCU headquarters.

Opinions can also be expressed in three public presentation sessions organized for members of the public, as well as in a session specially arranged to hear from representatives of local community associations.

COVID-19

BORDER RESTRICTIONS FOR CROSS-BORDER TRAVELERS IMPOSED UNTIL OCT. 31

FROM October 9 to October 31, Zhuhai-Macau travelers crossing Gongbei Port, Qingmao Port and Wangzai Port can only take one round trip a day, following the discovery of cases in the neighboring region.

There is no limitation on crossings from Hengqin Port and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Zhuhai Port.

As for tour groups, they are required to cross from Hengqin Port and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Brid-

ge Zhuhai Port.

Meanwhile, certain groups are exempted from the policy and will be registered by name on lists for customs management. These include cross-boundary truck drivers, cross-boundary students and their parents (limited to one), officials with urgent tasks, medical staff caring for patients in a serious or critical condition and staff of funeral parlors.

The interim measures will be adjusted according to the latest epidemic situation.

The Zhuhai Health Bureau reported that up to October 9, Zhuhai added two new confirmed Covid-19 cases and three new asymptomatic cases.

The Macau government has called on civil servants, school staff and cross-border students returning to Macau from Shenzhen or places outside Guangdong province to undergo two SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid tests, 24 hours apart, within three days from the day of their return. LV

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

CHEERS MACAU

OKTOBERFEST MACAU AT MGM 2022 PARTY NIGHT

MGM THEATER

Say "CHEERS, MACAU!" In yet another extravagant offering, MGM is gearing up for the highly anticipated and staple event in the city. The long-awaited *Oktoberfest Macau at MGM* is returning with a new concept revamped under the theme "Cheers, Macau!" Party Night!

This year, you are invited to take part in the citywide "Gastro-music" party night at Asia's first dynamic theater – MGM Theater, at MGM COTAI! Enjoy the rhythm and get into the party spirit with the award-winning Chinese rock band Tarzan, Chinese pop stars Liu Wenjun and Fu Xinyao, together with local bands Amulets, Daze in White and Gimme 5, while swaying and shaking to the tunes of beer maids in dirndls.

An additional element of the experience is the dynamic setting of the MGM Theater, which features synchronized lighting effects, a gigantic 4K LED display that covers the surface of three tennis courts, with a resolution of up to 28 million, along with centrally controlled LED wristbands to ensure guests have an immersive entertainment experience unlike any other. "CHEERS MACAU!" together and dive into an exhilarating atmosphere filled with spectacular DJ performances. Sway and dance all night long!



Experience the night's "Gastro-music" through traditional German cuisines such as the must-have pork knuckles, roasted chicken, and pretzels, while enjoying a couple of steins of Löwenbräu with friends and family. Let's get this marvelous beerfest started and enjoy the classic Bavarian gourmet and beer, fun games and folk dance, together with the cutting-edge technology and entertainment, to form a whole new integrated experience of the "Macau meets Munich" carnival!

Embrace the exhilarating atmosphere at MGM Theater, MGM COTAI between October 20 - 30, 2022, from 6pm to 12am daily. Join us for a family-fun afternoon on Oct 22, 23, 29, and 30 from 11am to 3pm! The number of tickets and seats is limited, so get them soon before they are gone! Call 8802 2666 or email oktoberfest@mgm.mo to reserve your table now!



 Please scan the QR code for more details.

DIRE STRAIT

TAIWAN LEADER TELLS BEIJING WAR 'ABSOLUTELY NOT AN OPTION'

JOHNSON LAI, TAIPEI

CHINA'S threats of military action against Taiwan are "absolutely not an option" and will "only push our two sides further from each other," Taiwanese leader Tsai Ing-wen said yesterday.

Speaking on Taiwan's day, Tsai said China should not mistake Taiwan's multiparty democratic political system for weakness and "attempt to divide Taiwanese society."

"I want to make clear to the Beijing authorities that armed confrontation is absolutely not an option for our two sides," Tsai said. "Only by respecting the commitment of the Taiwanese people to our sovereignty, democracy, and freedom can there be a foundation for resuming constructive interaction across the Taiwan Strait," she said.

Fighter jets and a Chinook helicopter flew overhead while the band from Taipei's First Girls' High School played hits ranging from the Beatles to Lady Gaga.

The festivities included international guests such as Palau President Surangel S. Whipps Jr., whose country's blue and yellow flag flew alongside Taiwan's red banner with its blue square and white star.

The holiday evokes Taiwan's endurance as a separate political entity with a thriving democracy and free press. Generally known as "Double Ten" in Taiwan, it commemorates a 1911 uprising by troops in the Chinese city of Wuhan that eventually led to

AP PHOTO



Students of Kyoto Tachibana S.H.S. Band perform during island "Double Ten" celebrations in Taipei

downfall of the Qing Dynasty. China's Communist Party swept the Nationalist government from the mainland amid civil war in 1949 and continues to claim the island.

In response, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning reiterated China's long-held stance that "Taiwan is not an independent state and has no so-called president."

"The root cause of the current tensions in the Taiwan Strait is that the (ruling Democratic Progressive Party) authorities have been clinging to Taiwan independence and colluding with external forces to make provocations," Mao told reporters at a daily briefing. "We are ready to create a wide space

for peaceful reunification, but will never leave any room for secessionist activities of Taiwan independence."

Tsai's speech focused largely on Taiwan's success in strengthening the social security net for an aging society and growing its high-tech economy despite the pandemic.

Russia's war on Ukraine has refocused attention on China and on ways Taiwan can resist a much larger and more powerful foe equipped with the world's largest standing army and a huge arsenal of missiles.

That was further underscored when China launched threatening military exercises around the island in response to a visit

to Taiwan in early August by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Beijing sent ships and planes across the midline of the Taiwan Strait that had long been a buffer zone between the sides in what was seen by some as a rehearsal of a blockade that could presage an attack. The U.S. has warned against such an action and Taiwan's defense chief said the island has sufficient resources to resist an attempt to cut it off from the outside world.

China also declared testing zones around the island in some of the world's most heavily traveled shipping lanes and fired at least four missiles over Taiwan, some of them landing in Japan's exclusive

economic zone.

Japan issued diplomatic protests over the missile firings and signed on to a statement from the Group of Seven industrialized countries criticizing the war games.

Despite Beijing's threats, U.S. and other foreign diplomats have continued to visit Taiwan and Washington's commitment to Taiwan's defense appears only to have grown.

Although Taipei and Washington have no formal diplomatic relations — a concession made to Beijing on the establishment of official ties in 1979 — U.S. law requires that Taipei has the ability to defend itself. It also requires Washington to regard all threats to the island as matters of "grave concern."

That commitment rests on a concept of "strategic ambiguity," whereby Washington insists Taiwan's status must be resolved peacefully but does not say if U.S. forces might be sent in response to a Chinese attack.

As China has ramped up its threats, that concept has eroded. President Joe Biden, in a CBS "60 Minutes" interview last month, said that "U.S. forces, U.S. men and women, would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion."

China, meanwhile, refuses to acknowledge Taiwanese self-determination or recognize Tsai's government. The two sides have not had any formal contacts the first of her two terms began in 2016.

Apart from military threats, Beijing blocks Taiwan from participating in international health, economic and cultural forums and has banned some imports from the island in apparent violation of World Trade Organization rules. **MDT/AP**

COVID-19

Authorities impose lockdowns as cases surge after holiday

CHINESE cities were imposing fresh lockdowns and travel restrictions after the number of new daily COVID-19 cases tripled during a weeklong holiday, ahead of a major Communist Party meeting in Beijing next week.

The latest lockdown started yesterday in Fenyang city in northern China's Shanxi province after a preliminary positive case was found in citywide testing the previous day, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

In the nearby Inner Mongolia region, the capital Hohhot announced that outside vehicles and pas-

sengers would be prohibited from entering the city starting Tuesday. Hohhot has recorded more than 2,000 cases over about 12 days.

China is one of the few places in the world still resorting to harsh measures to keep the disease from spreading. The long-ruling Communist Party is particularly concerned as it tries to present a positive image of the nation in the run-up to a once-in-five-years party congress that starts Sunday.

Travel was down during an annual National Day holiday that began Oct. 1, as authorities discouraged

people from leaving their cities and provinces. But the number of new daily cases has still grown to about 1,800 from 600 at the start of the break.

Leaders don't want a major outbreak to cast a pall over the congress, but their strict "zero-COVID" approach has taken an economic toll, particularly on small businesses and temporary workers. Many in China hope the pandemic policy will ease after the meeting.

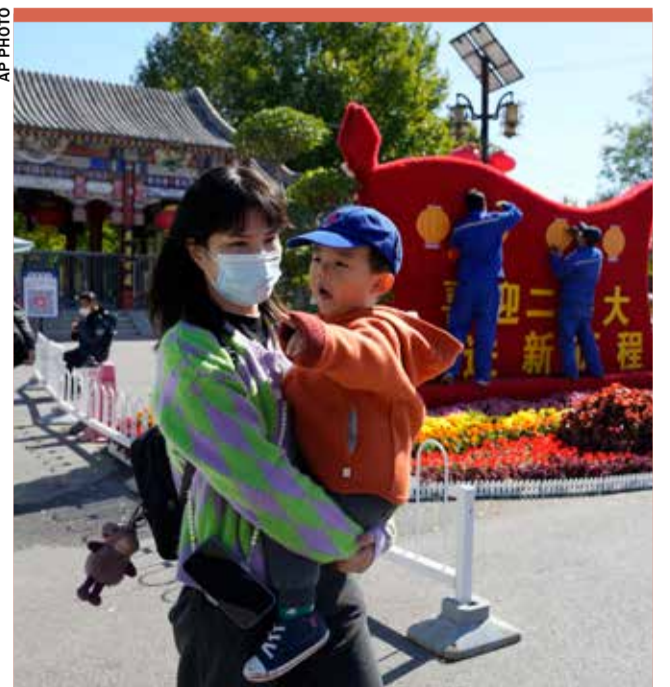
Outbreaks have been reported across the country, with the largest in Inner Mongolia and the far-west Xinjiang region. Both have

been recording several hundred new cases a day.

Both Shanghai, where residents endured prolonged lockdowns earlier this year, and the national capital Beijing have had a small but growing number of cases. Two Shanghai districts announced closures of cinemas and other entertainment venues yesterday.

Lining up for a free virus test several times a week has become the norm for many Chinese, with Beijing and other cities requiring a negative test result within 72 hours to enter parks, office buildings, shops and other public places. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO





Police inspect the scene of Russian shelling in Kyiv

PUTIN'S WAR

Russia blasts Kyiv, other Ukrainian cities in deadly strikes

ADAM SCHRECK
& HANNA ARHIROVA, KYIV

RUSSIA unleashed a lethal barrage of strikes against multiple Ukrainian cities yesterday, smashing civilian targets including downtown Kyiv where at least six people were killed amid burnt-out cars and shattered buildings. The onslaught brought back into focus the grim reality of war after months of easing tensions in the capital.

Ukraine's Emergency Service said a total of at least 11 people were killed and 64 were wounded in the morning attacks across Ukraine — the biggest and broadest since the early days of the war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose military invaded neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 24, said the strikes were in retaliation for what he called Kyiv's "terrorist" actions — a reference to Ukraine's attempts to repel Moscow's invasion forces, including an attack last weekend on a key bridge, prized by the Kremlin, between Russia and the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

Putin vowed a "tough" and "proportionate" response should Ukraine carry out further attacks that threaten Russia's security.

"No one should have any doubts about it," he said.

Yesterday's intense, hours-long attack by Russia marked a sudden military escalation in its assault on Ukraine. It came a day after Putin called the explosion Saturday on the huge bridge connecting Russia to its annexed

territory of Crimea a "terrorist act" masterminded by Ukrainian special services.

Putin, speaking in a video call with members of Russia's Security Council, said the Russian military launched "precision weapons" from the air, sea and ground to target key energy and military command facilities.

But the sustained barrage on major cities hit residential areas and critical infrastructure facilities alike, portending a major surge in the war amid a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive in recent weeks.

The missile strikes marked the biggest and most widespread Russian attacks in months. Putin, whose partial mobilization order earlier this month triggered an exodus of hundreds of thousands of men of fighting age from Russia, stopped short of declaring martial law or a counterterrorism operation as many had expected.

Moscow's war in Ukraine is approaching its eight-month milestone, and the Kremlin has been reeling from humiliating battlefield setbacks in areas of eastern Ukraine it is trying to annex.

Blasts struck in the capital's Shevchenko district, a large area in the center of the city that includes the historic old town as well as several government offices, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

Some of the strikes hit near the government quarter in the symbolic heart of the capital, where parliament and other major landmarks are located. A glass tower housing offices was significantly damaged, most of its blue-tinted windows blown out.

Residents were seen on the streets with blood on their clothes and hands. A young man wearing a blue jacket sat on the ground as a medic wrapped a bandage around his head. A woman with bandages wrapped around her head had blood all over the front of her blouse. Several cars were also damaged or completely destroyed. Air raid sirens sounded repeatedly across the country and in Kyiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russian forces launched dozens of missiles and Iranian-built drones against Ukraine.

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said 75 missiles were fired against Ukrainian targets, with 41 of them neutralized by air defenses.

The targets were civilian areas and energy facilities in 10 cities, Zelenskyy said in a video address. "(The Russians) chose such a time and such targets on purpose to inflict the most damage," Zelenskyy said.

The morning strikes sent Kyiv residents back into bomb shelters for the first time in months. The city's subway system stopped train services and made the stations available once more as places for refuge.

While air raid sirens have continued throughout the war in Ukraine's major cities across the country, in Kyiv and other areas where there have been months of calm many Ukrainians had begun to ignore their warnings and go about their normal business.

That changed yesterday. The attacks arrived in Kyiv at the start

of the morning rush hour, when commuter traffic was beginning to pick up. At least one of the vehicles struck near the Kyiv National University appeared to be a commuter minibus, known as a "marshrutka" and which is a popular albeit often crowded alternative to the city's bus and metro routes.

Nearby, at least one strike landed in the popular Shevchenko Park, leaving a large hole near a children's playground.

Among the targets hit was a pedestrian bridge known as the Klitschko bridge — a landmark in central Kyiv with its glass panels. Closed-circuit television footage shared by an adviser to Ukraine's interior minister showed a huge explosion as the bridge was apparently targeted. A man seen on the bridge just before the explosion is seen running away after the blast.

Elsewhere, Russia targeted civilian areas and energy infrastructure as air raid sirens sounded in every region of Ukraine, except Russia-annexed Crimea, for four straight hours.

The Ukraine Emergency Service said the strikes left four of the country's regions — the Lviv, the Poltava, the Sumy and the Ternopil region — completely without power, while in the rest of Ukraine power outages were patchy.

Associated Press journalists in Dnipro city saw the bodies of multiple people killed at an industrial site on the city's outskirts. Windows in the area had been blown out and glass littered the street. A telecommunications building was hit.

Ukrainian media also reported explosions in a number of other

locations, including the western city of Lviv, which has been a refuge for many people fleeing the fighting in the east, as well as in Kharkiv, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, Zhytomyr and Kropyvnytskyi.

Kharkiv was hit three times, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said. The strikes knocked out the electricity and water supply. Energy infrastructure was also hit in Lviv, regional Gov. Maksym Kozyskyi said.

Three cruise missiles launched against Ukraine from Russian ships in the Black Sea crossed Moldova's airspace, the country's Foreign Affairs Minister Nicu Popescu complained.

A day earlier, Putin had called the attack on the Kerch Bridge to Crimea a terrorist act carried out by Ukrainian special services. The bridge is important to Russia strategically, as a military supply line to its forces in Ukraine, and symbolically, as an emblem of its claims on Crimea. No one has claimed responsibility for damaging the 12-mile (19-kilometer)-long bridge, the longest in Europe.

Amid the onslaught, Zelenskyy said on his Telegram account that Russia is "trying to destroy us and wipe us off the face of the earth."

The attacks brought out a fresh bout of international condemnation for Russia.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's spokesman, Steffen Hebestreit, said the Group of Seven industrial powers will hold a videoconference Tuesday on the situation which Zelenskyy will address. Germany currently chairs the G-7.

The attacks brought a chorus of outrage in Europe. French President Emmanuel Macron expressed "extreme concern." British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly tweeted that "Russia's firing of missiles into civilian areas of Ukraine is unacceptable."

"Russia once again has shown to the world what it stands for. It is terror and brutality," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Some feared the attacks may just be the first salvo in a renewed Russian offensive. Ukraine's Ministry of Education announced that all schools in Ukraine must switch to online classes at least until the end of this week. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba broke off his Africa tour and headed back to Ukraine.

In an ominous move, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko announced yesterday that he and Putin have agreed to deploy a joint "regional grouping of troops" amid the escalation of fighting in Ukraine. He offered no details as to where the grouping will be deployed, when and what for.

Lukashenko repeated his claims that Ukraine is plotting an attack on Belarus, sparking fears the stage is being set for pre-emptive action by Minsk. **MDT/AP**

CULTURE

The 5,000-year history of writer's block

JOYCE KINKEAD
 UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

ANN Patchett, who has written eight novels and five books of nonfiction, says that when faced with writer's block, sometimes it seems that the muse has "gone out back for a smoke."

It doesn't matter whether you're an award-winning novelist or a high schooler tasked with writing an essay for English class: The fear and frustration of writing doesn't discriminate.

My most recent book, "A Writing Studies Primer," includes a chapter on gods, goddesses and patron saints of writing. When conducting research, I was struck by how writers have consistently sought divine inspiration and intercession.

It turns out that frustrated writers who pine for a muse or help from above are adhering to a 5,000-year-old tradition.

THE FIRST WRITERS LOOK TO THE SKIES

The first writing system, cuneiform, arose in Sumer around 3200 BC to keep track of wheat, transactions, real estate and recipes. Scribes used clay tablets to record the information – think of them as early spreadsheets.

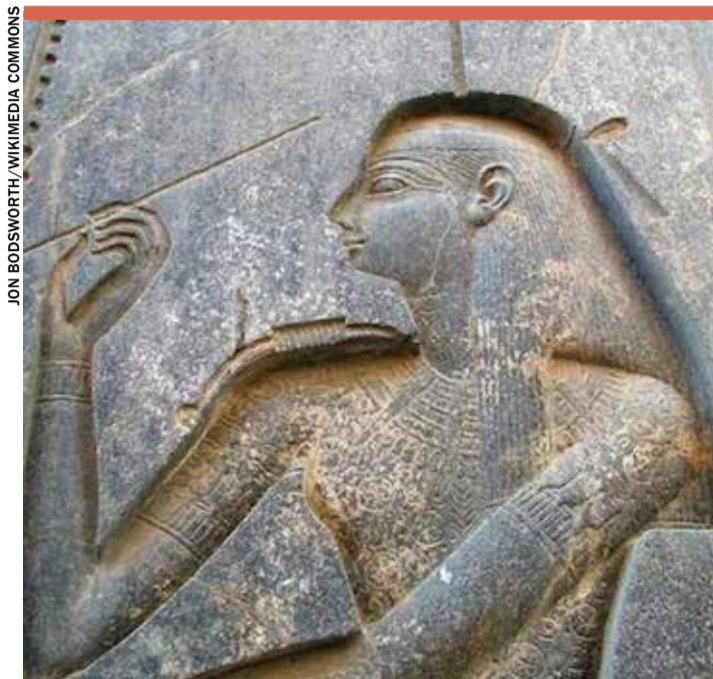
Originally the Sumerian goddess of grain, Nisaba became associated with writing. She was depicted holding a gold stylus and clay tablet.

As it was common for people to adopt a god or goddess for their professions, a new class of scribes latched onto Nisaba. Practice tablets from schools that trained young scribes invoke her name – "Praise be to Nisaba!" Poets trumpeted her influence and credited her for giving beautiful handwriting to diligent students.

Her Egyptian counterpart was Seshat, whose name translates to "female scribe."

Identifiable by a stylized papyrus as her headdress and a stylus in her right hand, Seshat guided the reed pens of scribes as priests communicated with the divine.

Writing was all about communicating with the gods, and the Greeks and Romans continued this tradition. They turned to the nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne, known



In Luxor, Egypt, there's an engraving of Seshat on a statue of Pharaoh Ramses II

collectively as the Muses. Calliope stands out most notably, not only because a musical instrument was named after her, but also because she was considered the foremost of the sisters for her eloquence.

The Muses have since evolved into one overarching "muse" that serves as a source of inspiration.

GLOBAL GODS AND GODDESSES OF WRITING

Gods and other legendary figures of writing are not limited to Western civilization.

In China, the historian Cangjie, who lived in the 27th century B.C., is said to have created the characters of the Chinese language. Legend has it that he was inspired by the pattern of veins on a turtle. (Back then, the Chinese often wrote on turtle shells.)

A competing story says that cultural folk hero Fuxi and his sister Nüwa created the system of Chinese characters circa 2000 B.C. Yet it is Cangjie's name that lives on in the Cangjie Input Method, which refers to the system that allows Chinese characters to be typed using a standard QWERTY keyboard.

In India, writers still invoke the elephant-headed Hindu god Ganesh before putting ink to paper. Known as a remover of obstacles, Ganesh can be especially meaningful for those struggling with writer's block. There's also Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of learning and the arts, who's renowned for her eloquence.

In Mesoamerica, Mayan culture looked to Itzamná as

the deity who provided the pillars of civilization: writing, calendars, medicine and worship rituals. His depiction as a toothless and wise old man signaled that he was not to be feared, an important characteristic for someone promoting an anxiety-inducing process like writing.

Enter the patron saints

In Christianity, patron saints are exemplars or martyrs who serve as role models and heavenly advocates. Various groups – professions, people with a certain illness and even entire nations – will adopt a patron saint.

Within the Catholic Church, a range of patron saints can serve as inspiration for writers.

St. Brigid of Ireland, who lived from 451 to 525, is the patron saint of printing presses and poets. A contemporary of the better-known St. Patrick, St. Brigid established a monastery for women, which included a school of art that became famous for its handwritten, decorative manuscripts, particularly the Book of Kildare.

Following St. Brigit in Ireland is St. Columba, who lived from 521 to 597 and founded the influential abbey at Iona, an island off the coast of Scotland. A renowned scholar, St. Columba transcribed over 300 books over the course of his life.

The influence of patron saints dedicated to literacy – reading and writing – continued long after the Middle Ages. In 1912, the College of Saint Scholastica was founded in Minnesota in tribute to Scholastica (480-543), who

with her twin brother, Benedict (died in 547), enjoyed discussing sacred texts. Both Italian patron saints came to be associated with books, reading and schooling.

OBJECTS CHARGED WITH POWER

Some writers may think supernatural figures seem a bit too far removed from the physical world. Fear not – there are magical objects that they can touch for inspiration and help, such as talismans. Derived from the ancient Greek word *telein*, which means to "fulfill," it was an object that – like an amulet – protected the bearer and facilitated good fortune.

Today, you can buy talismans drawn on ancient Celtic symbols that purport to help with the writing process. One vendor promises "natural inspiration and assist in all of your writing endeavors." Another supplier, Magickal Needs, advertises a similar product that supposedly helps "one find the right word at the most opportune moment."

Others turn to crystals. A writer's block crystals gift set available through Etsy offers agate, carnelian, tiger eye, citrine, amethyst and clear quartz crystals to help those struggling to formulate sentences.

WHAT MAKES A WRITER?

What drove the creation of divine beings and objects that can inspire and intercede on the behalf of writers?

To me, it's no mystery why writers have sought divine intervention for 5,000 years.

Sure, tallying counts of sheep or bushels of grain might seem like rote work. Yet early in the development of writing systems, the physical act of writing was exceedingly difficult – and one of the reasons schoolchildren prayed for help with their handwriting. Later, the act of creation – coming up with ideas, communicating them clearly and engaging readers – could make writing feel like a herculean task. Ironically, this complex skill does not necessarily get easier, even with lots of practice.

The romantic image of the writer in the garret doesn't do justice to the tedious reality of churning out words, one after another.

In his memoir "On Writing," Stephen King reflected, "Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration, the rest of us just get up and go to work." At the suggestion of a friend, the writer Patchett attached a sign-in sheet to the door of her writing room to ensure she wrote every day.

No matter how accomplished a writer, he or she will inevitably struggle with writer's block. **MDT/THE CONVERSATION**

this day in history

1976 CHINA'S 'GANG OF FOUR' ARRESTED



The new chairman of China's Communist Party, Hua Guofeng, has ordered the arrest of four leading radicals in Peking.

It is a sign that China is changing political direction following the death last month of Chairman Mao Zedong.

The so-called Gang of Four is led by Chairman Mao's widow Jian Qing, and includes Wang Hongwen, Yao Wenyuan, and Zhang Chunqiao.

They were active proponents of the Cultural Revolution instigated ten years ago by Chairman Mao.

This was a political and ideological campaign aimed at reviving revolutionary fervour and resulted in enormous social, economic and political upheaval.

Ideological cleansing began with attacks by young Red Guards on so-called "intellectuals" to remove "bourgeois" influences. It is believed millions were forced into manual labour, and tens of thousands were executed.

Mr Zhang rose up the ranks during the first year of the Cultural Revolution in Shanghai and was until recently chief political commissar of the armed forces.

Mr Wang had less power but was regarded a wonderboy – he rose to number three in the party in 1973 while still only in his late thirties, relatively young by Chinese standards.

Mr Yao, also a member of the Politburo standing committee, is regarded as dedicated, if not fanatical, in his belief in Maoist ideals of social development.

Jian Qing, formerly an actress, became Chairman Mao's third wife in 1939. She is regarded as a radical and active proponent of Maoist principles but in the years before his death, had led an independent life from her husband.

News of the arrests have not been confirmed by China's officials but it is believed the four were attempting a coup in the wake of the death of Chairman Mao on 9 September.

Some reports say Jian Qing was in the process of forging Chairman Mao's will placing her as Mao's successor, when she and her associates were surrounded by Hua Guofeng's personal bodyguards and placed under house arrest.

They are being questioned about their campaign against former prime minister Zhou Enlai, who died in January.

Commentators say the arrests might lead to a liberalisation of foreign, cultural and economic policy – the Times newspaper editorial calls this latest move "the most potent sign of a new political direction" following 27 years of Maoist dogma.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Gang of Four were kept under house arrest and, following a propaganda campaign against them, were expelled from the Communist Party in July 1977.

By the end of 1978 reformist Deng Xiaoping had effectively wrested power from Hua Guofeng – although he did not assume the title of premier of China and chair of the CCP until 1982.

On 20 November 1980 all members of the Gang of Four were put on trial charged with attempting to overthrow the government and establish a hardline Communist dictatorship.

They were sentenced to death, later commuted to long-term imprisonment. After a period of political indoctrination Jian Qing was released in 1991 and died soon after – some reports say she committed suicide.

Wang Hongwen died in 1992, Zhang Chunqiao died in April 2005 and Yao Wenyuan died in December 2005.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 You may have ignored or neglected your mate lately. Avoid friends or acquaintances who drink too much. A new relationship can be yours if you get out with friends.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Go with the flow and don't let the unsettled atmosphere get on your nerves. Acknowledge your lover's needs. Friends and relatives may be hard to take today.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Go out shopping today. Old friends may not like your choices. You can win if you're open and up front with your boss. Self-improvement projects should be your key concern.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Empty promises will cause confusion. Take a close look at documents before signing on the dotted line. Underhandedness regarding legal matters or contracts must be counteracted.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 This is not the time to lend or borrow money or possessions. A long discussion is in order if you wish to clear the air. Don't go overboard; start small and work toward building it up slowly.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You will be ready to jump on anyone who gets in the way of your progress today. Watch your weight gain due to water retention.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 If you want to make your mark, try to get involved in projects that will bring you some glory. Children may be difficult to handle.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Don't overspend to impress others. Your high energy will enable you to take the role of leader in group functions. Expect your workload to be heavy.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Plan a day of enjoyment with them. Take time to reevaluate your motives regarding friendships. Spend time with friends or family.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 You can develop your creative talents if you take the time to practice your art. If you can put some work into home improvements, you should.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Involvement in financial schemes will be followed by losses. You may want to take a look at courses offered at a local institute.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Don't make a move; your confusion has caused this dilemma and you are best to back away and reassess the situation.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY					EASY+								
5	1		8	6	6	9	5		2	1			
8			1	2	5	7	7			8	4		
2				9	4			3			6		
	2		5	1	3	8	2		5				
3	6		4	1	7	5	3		4		9	1	
		1	6	8	9				9	5		3	
	9	7			8	9			5				
	3	2		9	4	5	4	7			3		
		8		6		1	3	8	3		2	4	5

MEDIUM					HARD								
5			9	3	1	6		8					
6		8			2			2		8	4		
	7			4		7				3			
		5	3		8		3	2	5			8	1
	9				4								
	7		9	6									
	6				2			3	2	9			
8				7	9	8			4				
		1	6		4								

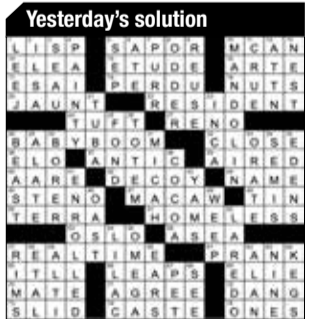
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	3	19	fine
Changchun	0	13	fine
Chengdu	11	18	overcast
Chongqing	14	20	cloudy
Fuzhou	16	24	cloudy
Guangzhou	17	28	fine
Guiyang	10	15	overcast
Haikou	21	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	8	17	cloudy
Harbin	0	13	fine
Hefei	7	19	fine
Nanjing	7	18	fine
Shanghai	11	20	fine
Taipei	21	24	rain
Wuhan	8	20	fine
Hong Kong	23	28	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	1	12	overcast
Frankfurt	4	16	overcast
Paris	6	18	overcast
London	6	16	overcast
New York	11	21	fine

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Single entity; 5- Tailless amphibian; 9- Simile center; 12- Having wealth; 13- Derby prize; 15- Queue before Q; 16- Are you ___ out?; 17- Perform or portray; 18- How sweet ___!; 19- Lady of Spain; 21- Sponger; 23- Smithereens; 25- Sly look; 26- Caught ya!; 29- Immoral habit; 31- Wretched; 35- Drunkard; 36- ___ Gay; 38- Currency unit in Nigeria; 39- Math course; 41- Steer; 43- Fiddlesticks; 44- Improvise; 46- Iota preceder; 48- Canonized Mile; 49- Be unfaithful; 51- Peter Fonda title role; 52- John Ritter's dad; 53- Partly open; 55- Goes wrong; 57- Deceitful; 61- Observe; 65- Carnivorous mammal; 66- Part of Hispaniola; 68- Seth begat him; 69- Dies ___; 70- Characteristic; 71- Important times; 72- Mystery writer Josephine; 73- Knock off; 74- Remove from text;

DOWN 1- "Trinity" author; 2- Mudville complement; 3- Desktop picture; 4- Palpitate; 5- Applying a remedy; 6- Suffix with ball; 7- PDQ; 8- Sticker; 9- Not pro; 10- And ___ goes; 11- Church recess; 14- Sprinkle; 15- Engage in textual misprision; 20- Split apart; 22- Long time; 24- Reconnoiter; 26- Take ___ at (try); 27- Multitude; 28- Inclined; 30- Root or Yale; 32- On top of the standings; 33- Component of organic fertilizer; 34- Juice of the rubber tree; 37- Designer Simpson; 40- Long-necked ruminant; 42- Infinite time; 45- ___ California; 47- Prefix with -drome; 50- Cruising vessel; 54- Brings up; 56- Spirited horse; 57- Tease; 58- Sported; 59- Oil of ___; 60- Clock face; 62- Concerning; 63- Wyoming resource; 64- Being, to Brutus; 67- Carrere of "Wayne's World";



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IAM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	



It's prime time to **BUY & RENT!**

有關樓宇廣告法定資訊請向職員查詢
 For more information on advertising laws, please speak to one of our representatives.

RENT

CONTACT US
 & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

hello@jmlproperty.com
 www.jmlproperty.com

jmlmacau jmlproperty

Bai Yuen Garden
 HKD 12,800,000 3 beds 2 bath

Hellene Gardens
 HKD 6,800,000 3 beds 3 bath

Marina Bay (Galaxy)
 HKD 7,500/mth 1 bed 1 bath

AD

ECONOMICS

FORMER US FED CHAIR BERNANKE SHARES NOBEL FOR RESEARCH ON BANKS

FORMER U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, who put his academic expertise on the Great Depression to work reviving the American economy after the 2007-2008 financial crisis, won the Nobel Prize in economic sciences along with two other U.S.-based economists for their research into the fallout from bank failures.

Bernanke was recognized Monday along with Douglas W. Diamond and Philip H. Dybvig. The Nobel panel at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm said the trio's research had shown "why avoiding bank collapses is vital."

With their findings in the early 1980s, the laureates laid the foundations for regulating financial markets, the panel said.

"Financial crises and depressions are kind of the worst thing that can happen to the economy," said John Hassler of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences. "These things can happen again. And we need to have an understanding of the mechanism behind those and what to



U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks during a news conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington in Dec. 2013

do about it. And the laureates this year provide that."

Bernanke, 68, who was Fed chair from early 2006 to early 2014 and is now with the Brookings Institution in Washington, examined the Great Depression of the 1930s, showing the danger of bank runs — when panicked people withdraw their savings — and how bank collapses led to widespread economic devastation.

Before Bernanke, economists saw bank failures as a consequence, not a cause, of economic downturns.

Diamond, 68, based at the University of Chicago, and Dybvig, 67, who is at Washington University in St. Louis, showed how government guarantees on deposits can prevent a spiraling of financial crises.

"Probably the most gratifying

thing for us is that policymakers actually seem to understand it, and the insights that we had, which are pretty simple, could be used in the actual financial crisis," Diamond told The Associated Press in Chicago. He added that he was "very happy" and "quite surprised" to get the call.

When it comes to the global economic turmoil created by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine, Diamond said in a call with the Nobel panel that the financial system is "much, much less vulnerable" to crises because of memories of the 2000s collapse and improved regulation.

"The problem is that these vulnerabilities of the fear of runs and dislocations and crises can show up anywhere in the financial sector. It doesn't have to be commercial banks," he said.

The trio's research took on real-world significance when investors sent the financial system into a panic during fall 2008.

Bernanke, then head of the Fed, teamed up with the U.S. Treasury Department to prop up major banks and ease a shortage

of credit, the lifeblood of the economy.

He slashed short-term interest rates to zero, directed the Fed's purchases of Treasury and mortgage investments and set up unprecedented lending programs. Collectively, those steps calmed investors and fortified big banks.

They also pushed long-term interest rates to historic lows and led to fierce criticism of Bernanke, particularly from some 2012 Republican presidential candidates, that the Fed was hurting the value of the dollar and running the risk of igniting inflation later.

The Fed's actions under Bernanke extended the authority of the central bank into unprecedented territory. They weren't able to prevent the longest and most painful recession since the 1930s. But in hindsight, the Fed's moves were credited with rescuing the banking system and avoiding another depression.

And Bernanke's Fed established a precedent for the central bank to respond with speed and force to economic shocks. **MDT/AP**

AD

合夥人 PARTNERS:

- 官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha °
- 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues °
- 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata °
- 趙魯 Zhao Lu °
- 馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

- 高文軒 Adelino Correia °
- 羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues *
- 馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
- 陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
- 白穎怡 Iclíia Berenguel
- 洗玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
- 馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins
- 飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °
- 杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo
- 莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
- 安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
- 巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
- 歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
- 陳芷喬 Joana Chan
- 顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan
- 諾瑪莉 Maria Noras
- 康靜雅 Viviana Hong
- 梁淑嵐 Ana Leon
- 黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

- 張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
- 陳健雄 Eurico Chan
- 吳霆鋒 Ng Teng Fong
- 戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng
- 吳佩愉 Ng Pui U
- 陳子健 Kimi Chan

法律專家 JURISTS:

- 林思潔 Jessie Lin
- 羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
- 斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
- 楊詩婷 Si Teng leong
- 伍福賢 Domingos Ng

° 私人公證員 Notary Public • 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer * 顧問 Of Counsel



To protect the health and safety of our Clients and Staff, we continue implementing prevention measures at the office entrance, as recommended by the local Authorities.

為了保護客戶和員工的健康和安全，我們將繼續按照本地政府的建議在辦公室入口處實施預防措施。

A: Av. da Praia Grande 759, 3-5 Floors **Office hours:**
Macau SAR, China **Mon-Thu: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:30**
 地址:澳門南灣大馬路759號3-5樓 **Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00**
 Tel: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623 **Sat: 9:00-13:00**

WWW.CCADVOG.COM



FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Barcelona needs to beat Inter to avoid another early exit

DANIELLA MATAR,
MILAN

BARCELONA could be on the verge of another humiliating group-stage exit from the Champions League.

With Barcelona and Inter Milan seemingly competing for second spot in Group C, behind a perfect Bayern Munich, it's advantage to the Italian side after it controversially won 1-0 at San Siro last week.

Another victory for Inter at Barcelona tomorrow [Macau time] would mathematically qualify the Nerazzurri for the round of 16 and consign Barcelona to an early exit from the competition for the second straight year — unless Bayern loses to Viktoria Plze in what would be a major upset.

Barcelona will be looking to Robert Lewandowski for inspiration. The former Bayern Munich forward netted a hat trick against Plze but was kept quiet against his old team and was largely anonymous in the first match against Inter.

"It's an important match in which we will have everything on the line," Barcelona defender Marcos Alonso said after the Catalan club beat Celta Vigo 1-0 at home Sunday for its seventh straight Spanish league victory.

Inter will be hoping the victory against Barcelona signaled a turning point in its season after a mediocre start to the domestic campaign which saw it lose four of its opening eight Serie A matches before that important Champions League win.

Simone Inzaghi's side made it two wins in a row with a 2-1 victory at Sassuolo on Saturday.

"We showed in the last game against Barcelona that we had turned a page," Inter midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan said after the Sassuolo win. "We are Inter and we showed we never give up."

Inter will still be without injured forwards Romelu Lukaku and Joaquín Correa.



AP PHOTO

Here's what else to look out for in the fourth round of games, which sees a reverse matchup from last time out:

WHO CAN QUALIFY?

Apart from Bayern and Inter, a number of other teams can secure their spots in the next round with two matches to spare if they win this week. Napoli handed Ajax its worst-ever Champions League defeat last week with a 6-1 rout to remain perfect and will be confident of progressing when it hosts the Dutch club. Club Brugge, Real Madrid and Manchester City have also won their three matches and they face Atlético Madrid, Shakhtar Donetsk and Copenhagen, respectively. Borussia Dortmund could also progress with a win at home to Sevilla on Tuesday.

CHELSEA IMPROVING

Chelsea started group play with a shock loss quickly followed by the firing of its manager. The London club looks to be back on track. A 3-0 win over AC Milan in Group E last week was a sign that Graham Potter — the replacement for Thomas Tuchel — was stamping his mark on Chelsea. Another win by the same score line,

at home to Wolverhampton in the Premier League on Saturday, backed that up. It was even achieved without forwards Raheem Sterling and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who were rested by Potter in the probability they will return at San Siro on Tuesday. Of the other English teams, Liverpool can strengthen its position in second place in Group A with a second straight win on Wednesday over Rangers, which has lost all three games so far. Group D, containing Tottenham, looks wide open with the four teams separated by three points. Tottenham and Eintracht Frankfurt are tied on four points ahead of their match in London on Wednesday.

SEVILLA CHANGE

Sevilla has a different coach in charge for its trip to Dortmund on Tuesday after Jorge Sampaoli replaced Julen Lopetegui following last week's 4-1 home loss to the German club. Sevilla must beat Dortmund to have a realistic chance of advancing in Group G but has only one win in 11 matches after drawing 1-1 with Athletic Bilbao on Saturday in Sampaoli's first game in charge. Atlético is also looking for a win, against Group B

leader Brugge, to get itself back in position to advance after consecutive defea-

ts at the Belgian champion and at Bayer Leverkusen. Atlético, Leverkusen and Porto are tied with three points, six fewer than Brugge.

LEVERKUSEN'S WOW EFFECT

Bayer Leverkusen's defeat at Porto last week proved to be the final game for coach Gerardo Seoane. Xabi Alonso took over the next day for the former Liverpool and Real Madrid great's first senior management job. "It was a little wow effect," Leverkusen midfielder Robert Andrich said. Alonso celebrated his debut Saturday when he led Leverkusen to just its second league win of the season. The 4-0 victory over Schalke was also the highest win for a Leverkusen coach on his Bundesliga debut. "We were concentrated today, but we have to show that all

the time, Wednesdays and Saturdays, always," Alonso said. Now it comes to doing better against Porto than his predecessor to get Leverkusen's Champions League campaign back on track. Alonso has won the competition as a player with Liverpool and Real Madrid.

FIGHT FOR TOP

Paris Saint-Germain and Benfica will fight again on Tuesday for top spot in Group H as they both have seven points while Juventus is in third place with three. Benfica will feel confident after its 1-1 draw with PSG as goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma had to make a number of crucial saves to prevent the Portuguese side from winning. PSG also produced a mediocre performance in a 0-0 draw with lowly Reims in the French league on Saturday but nevertheless remained unbeaten in all competitions this season. There is another matchup between a Portuguese side and a French team as Sporting Lisbon hosts Marseille on Wednesday. Marseille is fourth but only three points behind Group D leader Sporting. **MDT/AP**



BENFICAMACAU
ACADEMY
澳門賓菲加體育學校



FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

DECADE OF PEOPLE-FIRST DEVELOPMENT

Years from now, history will record how much unfair criticism China has received in sticking to its dynamic clearing policy to fight the still raging, but intentionally ignored by some countries, COVID-19 pandemic, and the countless lives that have been saved by doing that.

The commitment to putting people's lives and health first is a testament to the people-first principle that has been the touchstone for the country's development over the past 10 years. There are plenty of data from the past decade that tell the same story of how development has boosted people's income, improved their livelihoods and created jobs.

From 2013 to 2021, China's gross domestic product grew at an average annual rate of 6.6 percent, higher than the average of 2.6 percent for the world and 3.7 percent average of developing economies in the same period. China now ranks among upper-middle-income countries and is close to the threshold of high-income countries as classified by the World Bank.

China's economy accounted for 18.5 percent of the world economy in 2021, up 7.2 percentage points from 2012, and China's average contribution rate to world economic growth over the past decade has exceeded 30 percent.

Last year, China's average per capita GDP reached 80,976 yuan (\$11,329), an increase of 69.7 percent over the figure in 2012. This represented an average annual growth rate of 6.1 percent after deducting price factors. And the per capita disposable income of Chinese residents was 35,128 yuan, an increase of 18,618 yuan over 2012, representing an average annual real growth rate of 6.6 percent and 0.5 percentage points faster than the average annual growth rate of per capita GDP in the same period.

In particular, nearly 100 million rural residents were lifted out of abject poverty over the past decade through a national poverty alleviation campaign that was seamlessly docked with ongoing rural vitalization efforts aimed at narrowing the urban-rural development gap. The number of employed people in the country has remained stable at more than 740 million over the past decade, with more than 11 million jobs created each year.

At the same time, the country has accelerated the construction of its multi-level social security system, and built the world's largest social security system. By the end of 2021, the number of people covered by basic old-age insurance and basic medical insurance had reached 1.03 billion and 1.36 billion, respectively.

That the average life expectancy in China has increased from 35 years in 1949 to 78 last year speaks volumes of the remarkable achievements the country has made in implementing its people-first development policies.

The upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China will prove to be another historical springboard to carry on that development philosophy and adapt it better to the fast changing circumstances of the times.

A TIME BOMB: ANGER RISING IN A HOT SPOT OF IRAN PROTESTS

Growing up under a repressive system, Sharo, a 35-year-old university graduate, never thought she would hear words of open rebellion spoken out loud. Now she herself chants slogans like "Death to the Dictator!" with a fury she didn't know she had, as she joins protests calling for toppling the country's rulers.

Sharo said that after three weeks of protests, triggered by the death of a young woman in the custody of the feared morality police, anger at the authorities is only rising, despite a bloody crackdown that has left dozens dead and hundreds in detention.

"We are just waiting for something to happen, like a time-bomb,"

she said, speaking to The Associated Press via Telegram messenger service.

The anti-government protests in Sanandaj, 300 miles from the capital, are a microcosm of the leaderless protests that have roiled Iran.

Led largely by women and youth, they have evolved from spontaneous mass gatherings in central areas to scattered demonstrations in residential areas, schools and universities as activists try to evade an increasingly brutal crackdown.

Full story on macaudailytimes.com

THE BUZZ

QATAR HIRES THIRD CRUISE SHIP AS FLOATING HOTEL FOR WORLD CUP



The MSC Opera cruise ship passes the Malecon sea wall as it leaves the harbor in Havana

A third cruise ship was hired by World Cup organizers in Qatar yesterday to operate as a soccer fan hotel docked in Doha Port to add much-needed rooms for the tournament.

Geneva-based MSC Cruises announced the agreement only six weeks before the World Cup is scheduled to start on Nov. 20. The 1,075-cabin MSC Opera will be available from Nov. 19 to Dec. 19.

Prices for the Opera were listed yesterday on MSC's website starting from 470 Swiss francs (\$470) per person per night during the group stage, with a minimum two-night stay.

Qatar does not have the hotel capacity for all teams, workers, volunteers and fans at the World Cup and is creating camping and cabin sites, hiring cruise ships, and encouraging fans to stay in neighboring countries and fly in for games.

MSC previously signed a deal with the Qatari government in 2019 to provide two ships with about 4,000 cabins as floating hotels to help house the expected 1.2 million international visitors.

The high-end flagship MSC World Europa is starting work at the World Cup after being built in France.

Prices on the cruise ships fall during the tournament when half the teams go home. During the round of 16 and quarterfinals, the cheapest rooms on MSC Opera cost 320 Swiss francs (\$320), then 220 Swiss francs (\$220) during the final week.

Basic rates include breakfast on board with an option to pay a 90 euro (\$87) daily supplement for all meals.

Alcohol is expected to be available on board with MSC offering wine and draft beer.

Qatar is a Muslim-majority country that typically limits the consumption of alcohol to luxury hotels but has eased its rules for FIFA's commercial partners, including the corporate hospitality provider at stadiums and World Cup sponsor AB InBev, the brewer of Budweiser.

The MSC Opera had its maiden voyage in 2004 and had an eventful sailing season three years ago.

In March 2019, passengers suspected of smuggling 18 kilograms (40 pounds) of cocaine hidden in bowls and packets of snacks were arrested when the ship docked at the Portuguese island of Madeira after sailing from the Caribbean.

Three months later the Opera collided with a tourist boat and its dock in Venice, Italy.

QATARIS TAKE MINORITY STAKE IN BRAGA

The Qatari owner of Paris Saint-Germain agreed a deal yesterday to take a minority stake in Portuguese club Braga.

Qatar Sports Investments said an agreement to buy almost 22% of shares in the 101-year-old club was declared to Portuguese financial authorities, and the deal should be completed within months.

QSI is buying into Champions League potential with Braga, which is a Europa League regular having reached the final in 2011 and played in the group stage seven of the past eight seasons.

The club is in third place in the Portuguese league — behind traditional powers Benfica and Porto — which currently earns a place in the Champions League qualifying rounds.

However, Champions League reforms taking effect in 2024 give a third direct entry to the group stage for the domestic league ranked No. 5 by UEFA, and Portugal is competing for that slot with France and the Netherlands. **MDT/AP**

Germany The head of the national cybersecurity agency is under scrutiny over reports of ties to Russian intelligence, officials said yesterday. Arne Schoenbohm, who heads the BSI agency, co-founded a cybersecurity group a decade ago that brings together experts from public institutions and the private sector. German media reported that one of its members is a company founded by a former Russian intelligence agent.

Austrian government said yesterday that it has filed a legal complaint with the European Union's top court over plans by the bloc's executive branch to label natural gas and nuclear power generation as sustainable. Austria's environment minister, Leonore Gewessler, warned that the measure could "greenwash" nuclear power and gas despite the environmental damage they cause.



Netherlands Activists calling for the decriminalization of assisted suicide in the Netherlands took the Dutch government to court yesterday, arguing that its ban on helping a person end their life breaches human rights. The case at The Hague District Court is the latest legal battle in a long-running debate around end-of-life issues in the country that in 2002 became the first in the world to pass a law that decriminalized euthanasia.



Britain's Treasury chief said yesterday he will bring forward the publication of the government's full fiscal statement after facing widespread criticism for not providing details about a multibillion-pound, tax-cutting stimulus package he announced last month. Kwasi Kwarteng (pictured) had been expected to publish details of his financial strategy on Nov. 23, two months after he first unveiled plans that included 45 billion pounds in tax cuts, to be paid for by government borrowing.